

Project Factsheet for: Lower Des Moines River, Iowa, Reconnaissance Study

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Project Location Information

Location: Lower Des Moines River (Saylorville Reservoir to the Mississippi River)

State(s): IA, MO

Congressional District(s): IA-2, IA-3, IA-4, MO-9

Status

An initial appraisal (Section 216 Study) was completed September 2000. This appraisal concluded that Federal interest in further study is warranted. The Mississippi Valley Division of the Corps of Engineers concurred with the report's conclusion and recommended that a \$100,000 reconnaissance-level study be conducted at 100% Federal cost. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources supports the need for additional study of Saylorville/Lake Red Rock operations and Lower Des Moines River issues. The Southern Iowa Development and Conservation Authority (SIDCA) expressed interest in serving as project sponsor.

Completed reconnaissance study in March 2003. The final recommendation states that although potential opportunities for ecosystem restoration may exist there is currently insufficient data to justify going forward with a feasibility study at this time. In addition a non-Federal cost sharing partner could not be definitively identified. The final report does recognize the need for a more comprehensive approach to Des Moines River watershed planning.

Description

The Des Moines River's long history of flooding problems resulted in the construction of Saylorville and Red Rock Reservoirs in the 1960s and 1970s. For study purposes the Lower Des Moines River is defined as the reach from Red Rock Reservoir dam downstream to the confluence with the Mississippi River at Keokuk, Iowa, a distance of approximately 142 miles. The watershed of the Lower Des Moines River includes parts of 8 counties in southeast Iowa and 1 county in northeast Missouri. Extensive agricultural activities throughout the Des Moines River basin makes it one of the most intensively used watersheds in the nation. This intensive use has resulted in significant bankline erosion, sediment loading and flooding problems. These problems in turn result in floodplain impacts, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat degradation, and diminished recreational values. Also, local residents and state officials have expressed concern that the existing Federal projects (Saylorville and Lake Red Rock flood control reservoirs) do not provide optimal benefits and may be negatively impacting downstream resources.

Although anecdotal evidence suggests potential opportunities for environmental restoration, the lack of meaningful biological data and a clear non-Federal cost-sharing partner commitment resulted in a negative 905b analysis. The final report did suggest that a comprehensive Des Moines River watershed study should be considered.

Summarized Financial Data

Federal Cost	\$84,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$84,000
Federal Allocations through FY 2003	\$84,000

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

None

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

None.

Authority

GI - General Investigations -- Section 216, Flood Control Act of 1970.

Project Manager Information

Name: Jerry Skalak, Project Management Branch, Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Phone: (309)794-5605

E-mail: jerry.a.skalak@usace.army.mil